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22 December 1958

STAFF MEETING MINUTES - 18 December 1958

Personnel Present: Mr. Bissell

25X1

Mr. Reber
Mr. Cunningham

25X1

1. [redacted] - As of 18 December no meteorological flights had been accomplished at [redacted] because of a combination of malfunctions and bad terminal weather. The staging party will remain at [redacted] until the two scheduled missions have been completed.

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4. TEST STATUS BOARD - The only change was to mention that zoom-climb tests have been completed. It was also noted that the two remaining tests required on the present model of the [redacted] have not yet been completed. The re-evaluation of the [redacted] is in process with emphasis on an evaluation of tube wattage.

5. ZOOM-CLIMB TEST RESULTS - [redacted] led a discussion on some of the very tentative conclusions that may be drawn from the recently completed zoom-climb tests. A total of six U-2 sorties were flown out of Del Rio and a total of 17 intercept attempts were made by F-102 and F-104 aircraft flying out of Eglin AFB.

In general, the tests demonstrated that the probability of interception of U-2 by current Russian fighter aircraft is somewhat less than anticipated. The probability of interception is increased to "substantial" with the use of intercept aircraft equipped with infra-red seeking missiles. Although the results of the tests are generally encouraging, [redacted] said that operationally we must take care to see that entry and exit points of operational missions are widely separated; and that no operations are conducted from home base.

A significant sideline result of the tests was a demonstration that even a small altitude increase decreases significantly the chance of interception. This point led to a discussion on whether or not we are suffering from a degradation of altitude capability as time goes on, and are possibly not being so careful as formerly about the addition of minor weights that influence altitude.

As a related matter, Mr. Bissell requested Col. Burke to take up with [redacted] the question whether or not our experience with the J-57 will allow us to increase the turbine inlet temperature and/or the tailpipe temperature.

The results of these tests when conclusive are to be sent by dispatch, eyes only, to the Detachment field commanders. The information is to be shared freely with [redacted]

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6. MISSILE TELEMETRY - Col. Burke announced that preliminary discussions with Dr. Scoville indicated that an earlier alert would be possible for the CHALICE field detachment. The CHAL detachment needs a minimum of 6 hours; Col. Burke said Dr. Scoville had promised us 7 hours notice. There is to be a meeting on this general subject on 19 December.

[] is meeting this week with the configuration contractor, Haller, Raymond & Brown. [] announced that the contract has been written and is in the process of approval.

[] noted that the Air Force had recently run a missile telemetry mission, described as successful, utilizing a modified RB-47.

7. STAFF DIRECTIVE - [] announced that work on the staff directive (less the TSS portion) had progressed to the point where a relatively final meeting could be held on the morning of 19 December. The final staff study resulting from this work will be shown to Mr. Bissell prior to being referred back to the other components of the Agency that will be affected.

Actual complete implementation in Headquarters and in the field of the proposed reorganizations may well take several months. Mr. Bissell wished the various parts of this exercise to be attacked in the following order:

a. Centralization of all Washington elements by 1 February and the establishment in principle of proper relationships with CIA field stations by the same date.

b. Field trip to Europe and the Far East to examine at first hand and recommend on matters of field organization for air operations; and discussion of relationship with field stations.

c. Establishment of how large organic Agency airlift should be; and establishment of workable jurisdictional relationships with the Air Force.

APPROVED:

[]

WILLIAM BURKE
Colonel USAF
Deputy Director, DPS/DCI

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